

THE

Grey Wolf

HOWL



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Commander's Column

By Col. David W. Sutherland
3BCT, 1CD Commander



Grey Wolf!

It's only been a month since we transitioned and assumed responsibility for the Diyala province, but I am amazed at how much we have achieved in such a small period of time.

We have been conducting operations throughout Diyala, and all of those operations have been incredibly productive. 5-73 RSTA conducted operation Turki Bowl, where the Soldiers fought a well-trained and equipped enemy. They discovered six weapons caches with numerous weapons systems and over 500 thousand rounds of ammunitions and explosive material.

6-9 ARS conducted operations in Muqdadiyah, where they also found numerous caches, as well as disrupted the operations of an IED cell. 1-12 CAB continues to conduct operations to secure the city of Baqubah. Our accomplishments are due to your continued professionalism and the actionable intelligence we are receiving.

Our leaders and Soldiers have focused their efforts on conducting engagements with the local population and their leaders.

This has helped build the mutual trust critical for our mission accomplishment. These engagements, from brigade level down to platoon and even squad level, will continue to pay dividends in our AO.

It is critical that our Soldiers understand the message we are trying to convey to the people. We will continue to engage the people, gain awareness of the community in which we operate, become attuned to our environment, all in the context of our engagements. The relationships we build during these engagements will help us succeed in this very important mission. The future of the people of Diyala depends on those relationships we build.

I would like to conclude this message by saying that our Soldiers are continuously working hard, even through the holidays. But their spirits are lifted by the constant support they receive from our Fort Hood and Central Texas community, and warm thoughts of home and family. May you have a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

Live the Legend,
GW6

'Hooah' Corner

By Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt
3BCT, 1CD Command Sgt. Maj.



HOOAH,

Many of you have probably not seen the Wolf Creed. I have enjoyed it since coming to the Grey Wolf Brigade three years ago. I think it sums up the concept of a pack of wolves and how they interact with each other. As I read the creed today, I was struck by how applicable it is, especially in a combat environment.

The creed gives us practical, manageable advice on how to work together to accomplish the mission and improve the organization.

Of course, proper military courtesy requires we respect our superiors, but the creed seems to suggest it in a different manner – out of respect for their experience, longevity and knowledge we render to our “elders.” The respect they deserve, not just that required by rank.

Teach the young, new Soldiers, new leaders, someone new to a duty position. Teach each other; make the team stronger, more efficient, more capable.

Cooperate with the pack. There is no “I” in team. We must build a strong team,

an organization that when working together is stronger than the sum on its parts. A little patience, understanding and acceptance goes a long way to getting ‘er dun. All these events help alleviate stress, tension and revitalize our mental, physical and emotional state.

Hunt when you must go out the wire, conduct your combat logistics patrol, cor-



don and search, raid or tactical check point. This is why we are here. Take the fight to the enemy. Build a stronger, safer Iraq and make America safer at the same time.

Rest in between. Sometimes it's tough, but we must take care of ourselves and our battle buddies.

Show your affections – within General Order #1's limits!! We must show our affections to our fellow Soldiers, not necessarily in a physical way, but in a manner that shows the bond between the band of brother, or in some cases, sisters.

The Army family is similar to your own family. We show how much we love and appreciate our family. It is no different in the Army.

Voice your feelings. We know that we have a moral obligation to voice our feelings concerning leadership issues, missions and Soldier care. When the order is given, you accomplish it, but an After Action Review allows you the opportunity to voice your concerns, recommendations or praises.

Leave your mark. The new Brigade Combat Team coin is made in the shape of a wolf's paw print. On the back of the coin it states, “for leaving your imprint on the Brigade.”

We must all leave the organization better when we leave than when we arrived. Leave your mark of excellence on all you do and the Grey Wolf Brigade, in fact all the subordinate units thereof, will be better for you having served.

Live the Legend,
GW9

3BCT Assumes Command of Diyala Province

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, officially assumed operational responsibility for Iraq's Diyala province from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division during a Mission Assumption Day Ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Nov. 3.

The ceremony was to formally end the year-long mission for the Soldiers and leaders of the 3rd "Striker" HBCT, 4th ID and officially begin the "Grey Wolf" Brigade's journey in Iraq.

Many Soldiers of both brigades were in attendance, along with many government, army, police and civic leaders of Diyala.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of the 25th "Tropic Lightning" Infantry Division; Col. Brian D. Jones, commander of the 3rd HBCT, 4th ID; and Col. David Sutherland, commander of the 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div.; all spoke at the ceremony — speaking about future plans and goals while wishing the Striker troops a safe trip home.

"Today marks the end to



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Col. David Sutherland and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, the commander and command sergeant major of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, un-case the brigade's colors in a Mission Assumption Day ceremony, Nov. 3.

what has been a successful year," said Mixon. "It is an honor to stand before [the Striker Brigade] in what is a momentous occasion for all of you."

"[Striker] was responsible for nearly 30,000 square miles [of land], conducted more than 17,000 combat patrols, and discovered more than 300 caches," Mixon added.

"On these missions [Striker] helped detain over 1,300 terrorists and insurgents — people who's only goal was to do harm to [the Soldiers] and the peace-loving people of Iraq," he said.

Mixon, welcoming the Grey Wolf Soldiers to the "Tropic Lightning Team," encouraged the Soldiers of Grey Wolf to

the "great work" and success of the Striker Brigade.

After Mixon's speech, Jones reflected on the past year and also welcomed the 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. to the province.

"This day represents a big day for Coalition Forces in Diyala," said Jones. "Today, 'Grey Wolf' officially assumes responsibility from the 'Striker' Brigade for assisting the citizens and the Iraqi Security Forces of Diyala."

"Although this marks the end of our time here, it will not end Coalition Forces efforts to help Diyala," added Jones.

"Diyala presents many challenges, and the Strikers have performed magnificently," he added. "I am confident that the Grey Wolves will do like wise, and I wish [Col.] David Sutherland, his leaders and Soldiers the best of luck as they face the difficult, but rewarding task of bringing security and stability to Diyala."

In closing, Sutherland thanked the 4th ID Soldiers for their successes and their assis-

tance with transition.

"I would like to thank the Striker Brigade Combat Team for their outstanding support they have provided the people of Diyala this past year and the assistance with transition operations these past weeks," said Sutherland. "My team looks forward to building upon the Striker's success."

Sutherland also stressed the importance of the relationship between his Soldiers and the citizens of Diyala.

"Relationships and cooperation from the Iraqi people, not bullets, will ultimately defeat the enemy in the end," he said.

Sutherland, as he finished his speech, informed the citizens of Diyala of the strengths his Soldiers possess and spoke confidently about the coming year the Grey Wolf Brigade will face.

"As I said on numerous occasions, I see greatness in our formations," he said. "I see greatness in our leaders. It is this greatness that will carry us through the tough tasks that lie ahead."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

An IA soldier stands next to "Grey Wolf" Soldiers while the Iraqi and U.S. national anthems are played at the Mission Assumption Day ceremony, Nov. 3.

c o n t i n u e

Mechanics Play Vital Role in Mission Accomplishment

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — Movement is a major factor for Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Vehicles, whether Humvees, tanks or Bradleys, are essential for Soldiers to accomplish their mission. When a vehicle breaks down, Soldiers lose their ability to successfully accomplish their tasks, and it's up to the experts of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division to ensure the unit's are

mission capable.

The experts, otherwise known as the mechanics from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, play a vital role to ensure the Soldiers of the "Grey Wolf" Brigade are able to safely maneuver throughout the area of operations.

"Soldiers now a day heavily depend on their vehicles," said Pfc. Greg Cooper, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 3rd BSTB, and a native of St. Louis.

"Soldiers don't march everywhere anymore," he continued. "They take trucks, Bradleys and other vehicles. If something breaks down, without us, they might not be able to get to the destination they need to be at in time."

"For a lot of Soldiers to get from FOB (Forward Operating Base) to FOB, the only way they might be able to get there is in a vehicle," said Spc. William Curry, HHC, 3rd BSTB and the driver for Command Sgt. Major Arthur Swingler, 3BSTB command sergeant major.

"We depend on these guys' knowledge and we trust their skills," added the Seattle native.

To keep vehicles prepared and maintained, the mechanics perform routine Quality Assurance, Quality Control test on every vehicle they see. This test allows the mechanics to check everything on the vehicle from loose bolts to cracked windows.

"The reason we do these check-ups is because people's lives depend on their equipment," he continued. "It's up to us to make sure they have the means to return home alive."

"If a Soldier goes out on a mission...and their vehicle breaks down,

they are in a real bad spot. It's our job to make sure their vehicles are in the best shape," he said.

"Our Soldiers go through the vehicle to perform a QA/QC before and after a mission to make sure the vehicle is able and ready to perform at anytime it's needed," added Sgt. Ramon Lopez, HHC, 3rd BSTB, and a native of Hobbs, N.M.

"Safety is the number one key to our checks," said Lopez. "We have to make sure the Soldiers will be safe and can depend on their vehicles while out on their missions."

Curry said being able to depend on his vehicle is vital and that's why he brings his vehicle to be inspected before missions.

"I bring my vehicle to our maintenance section because they are extremely thorough," said Curry. "I have brought my vehicle in for a QA/QC and they have caught things that I have missed on my [Pre-Maintenance Checks and Services]."

"My life depends on this vehicle, that's why I come to them," Curry said.

The Soldiers of 3rd BSTB have been spending hours everyday, working hard to ensure every vehicle they see is combat effective, said Lopez.

"It's important to get the vehicles out and moving," he said. "Repairing a vehicle and knowing the Soldiers in it are safe is extremely important."

"Our maintenance guys are doing a heck of a job out here. If it wasn't for us, these vehicles wouldn't be going anywhere and these Soldiers wouldn't be able to complete their missions," Lopez said.

"If it wasn't for mechanics, the whole Army would not be able to move," added Cooper.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

While checking for loose bolts in an engine to a Humvee, Pfc. Greg Cooper, HHC, 3BCT, 1CD, completes a QA/QC test for the vehicle.

Useful Iraqi Phrases

Thank you for your help.
shu-kran le-musaadatek

On the cover ...



Sgt. Ramon Lopez, 3BSTB, 3BCT, 1CD, and a native of Hobbs, N.M., tightens the bolts to the wheel he just replaced an Iraqi Police vehicle.

Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

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Chaplain's Corner

What does it mean to be created in God's Image? The Bible tells us that man was created in "God's image," but what does this mean? God doesn't have a physical body that we can touch; he is a spirit. In other words, God doesn't have a visual appearance. We don't know what he looks like. Being created in God's image doesn't mean a physical likeness, but rather means that we have the potential to imitate Him, as it is said in Leviticus 19:2 "...you shall be holy for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

Just as God is holy, we shall be holy. Just as he is merciful and full of love, grace and compassion, so should we be full of mercy, grace, love and compassion. When we read in the Bible about God's character, we see that his attributes are worthy to be emulated. You see, God is slowly to anger, righteous, pure, mighty etc., attributes that we were born with the potential of emulating. These are qualities that we, as humans, can cultivate in order to be more like Him.

God is too complex for us to understand. Genetics, environment, education, life experience and much more are combined to make humans, who are created in God's image, also a fascinating, complex creature. We cannot fully understand another person, because we all are special and unique in our ways.

My friends, let us rejoice with the fact that we are created in His image. We are created to do all things in Him who strengthens us. Life is hard and difficult to understand, but we have the potential to make a difference in other peoples lives. We are created in God's image; therefore, let us make this world one worthy of His creation.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez
3BSTB, 3BCT, 1CD Chaplain

3rd BCT Soldier Adds Unit Symbol to Memorial Garden at FOB Warhorse



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Abraham Bankhead, HHC, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., draws the 3rd BCT symbol the on a wall in the Memorial Garden at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Baqubah, Iraq Nov. 2. The memorial, which will be painted, is to honor fallen Soldiers of the units who have been stationed at FOB Warhorse throughout the years.

Soldier on the FOB

If you could receive anything you want in the mail, what would it be?



Spc. Joseph Eclavea
Co. E, 215th BSB

"I would like to receive plane tickets every month so I could fly home to visit my family every month."

Pfc. Ruben Rosas
HHC, 3rd BSTB

"I just want to receive a [Play Station 3]."



Spc. Antonio Bizzard
Co. A, 2-82 FA

"I would like to receive a card from both my wife and my mother, who are both stationed in Iraq, letting me know they are okay and safe."



Pvt. Christopher Pugh
Co. A, 2-82 FA

"I would love to receive a laptop and a Web cam so I could talk to and see my wife on a daily basis."



Pfc. LaShunda Morris
HHC, 3rd BSTB

"My mom, because she is my best friend in the world."



By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

GREY In A



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Lipscomb, 5-73 CAV

Local Iraqi citizens sit and wait as Iraqi soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division pass out supplies donated by the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Nov. 6. "This is the best mission you can go on," said Spc. Kevin Geis, HHT, 5-73. "These kids are the leaders in the next 15 to 20 years, and we might have a lasting effect on them with these missions."



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public

Spc. Anthony Woestman, a medic with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, shows the M1070, pictures from a previous mission, Nov. 6.



Photo by Spc. Omar Calalrodarte, 2-82 Field

Capt. Dave Norris and 1st Sgt. Thomas Richey, commander and first sergeant of HHC, 2- 82 FA, present the "Steel Dragon" combat patch to the 1st Cavalry Division Combat Patch, Nov. 5, at LSA Anaconda. The combat patch symbolizes the Soldiers' deployment to Iraq and is awarded after 30 days in a combat area.

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Right, Capt. Larry Robinson, 5-73 CAV, and a native of Sandusky, Ohio, checks the heart beat of a young Iraqi girl during 5-73 and the Iraqi Army's Combined Medical Engagement in Tursak, Iraq, Nov. 8.

Below, Spc. Devin Clausen, a member of the 3BCT personal security detachment, mans the .50 Cal Machine Gun while on a mission in Iraq's Diyala Province, Oct. 26. Clausen and other members of the PSD are responsible for the security of the brigade's commander and command sergeant major.



Photo by Spc Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

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Cav Soldiers Take a Right-Seat Ride

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — Experience is a valuable asset on the battlefield. Knowing where dangerous places are and what techniques work in an area of operation can essentially save a Soldier's life.

Not every Soldier has experience on the battlefield though. Not every Soldier has seen danger spots and effective methods in an area of operation. Without this prior knowledge, there needs to be a means to prepare Soldiers for their overseas assignments.

Transition is the answer.

When the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division stepped foot into Iraq, many Soldiers didn't have previous war-time experience and most elements of the war have changed since the brigade's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To gain knowledge of the area and current situations, the 3BCT Soldiers learned from the experiences and procedures of the unit they replaced — the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division — during a transition period called right-seat ride and left-seat ride, which began Oct. 21 and will end with the brigade's Transition of Authority ceremony, Nov. 3.

Right-seat ride consists of the incoming unit observing and learning methods from the unit they are replacing. About a week

later, the left-seat ride occurs and the incoming unit takes over operations while the outgoing unit watches and helps the new unit fall into its battle rhythm.

Capt. Randall Crowder, the brigade's fire support officer and an Austin, Texas native, said the right- and left-seat rides are important to the incoming brigade's success.

Each year, the insurgents' tactics and leaders change, so even if a Soldier has been to a deployed zone before, everything he knew could possibly be changed, said Crowder.

The process helps the incoming Soldiers become familiar with their surroundings and their enemies, and even the non-kinetic aspects of the war, he said.

"You can only learn that from people who have been here doing it," said Crowder.

Pfc. Jeremy Crocker, Company A, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, just returned from his first mission and agreed with Crowder.

"The only way to do it is with guys who have been doing it for a year," said Crocker, a native of St. Louis, Missouri.

Crocker, who went on a mission with Soldiers from 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID on a right-seat ride, said the ride was helpful to him because he had never been in an actual combat situation before.

Without the other unit there, Crocker

said it would have been more chaotic and confusing, but thanks to the 1-68 CAB Soldiers, he was able to keep his wits and understand how to react under moments of intense stress.

"I'm a lot better off (with the right-seat ride) than I would have been just jumping in here," said Pfc. Joshua Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

Taylor, native to Fort Lupton, Colo., is a radar operator who tracks incoming indirect fire. The ride is invaluable to him and his team because they can't afford to get things wrong, he said.

"People's lives depend on us," said Taylor.

When he took the right-seat ride, Taylor said his counterparts gave him a sheet of helpful notes, which he will keep in his pocket the whole year.

The transitional exercise is particularly helpful because the war being fought in Iraq differs from many previous wars the military has been involved in, said Crowder.

"Each unit has its wins, and each new unit learns from the old's losses," said Crowder.

Having a plan of action before an incident occurs gives strength to a combat unit and the exercise helps to give that strength, he said.

"It sets us up to be proactive and not reactive," said Crowder.

Instead of having to learn everything from scratch, the brigade now has a head start on gaining intelligence and producing a battle rhythm, said Crowder.

For members of the outgoing unit, right- and left-seat rides are equally important so their successes can be built upon.

"Without right-seat ride, your entity would come in completely blind and not be able to take advantage of lessons learned — because those lessons learned save lives," said 1st Sgt. Jason Mosher, the first sergeant of the Police Transition Team at the Provincial Level from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID.

The right-seat ride process allows the incoming unit to learn tasks such as reaction drills, the meaning of reaction codes and how to conduct guard — redefined procedures the outgoing unit has massaged to help set the incoming unit up for success, said Mosher.

"In the cloud of war, it's real easy to get confused, so that's why we do these drills," Mosher said. "We do everything we can to mitigate those risks."



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Rivera, personal security detachment team leader and a Mayaguez, Puerto Rico native, conducts a convoy briefing before escorting the brigade's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, to other Forward Operating Bases in the Diyala Province, Oct. 26.

Airborne Soldiers Provide Medical Care to Tursak Citizens

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BALAD RUZ, Iraq -- It was a cold Iraqi morning as the Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division loaded their Humvees and rolled-out for a Combined Medical Engagement mission with members of the Iraqi Army, Nov. 8.

The CME provided citizens of Tursak, Iraq, the opportunity to receive medical care for illnesses or injuries that otherwise would not have been tended to. With the Iraqi Army surgeon in the lead, Capt. Larry Robinson, the 5-73 surgeon, was there to provide extra assistance when needed.

"The CME was a chance for us to go out to a village to help the people out with some of their illnesses, and also to give credibility to the Iraqi Army and their medical personnel," said Robinson, a native of Sandusky, Ohio.

As Iraq continues to build upon its democracy, it is important for the people of Iraq to know their army is there for them, not only for security, but for stability and peace-keeping missions, too, said Robinson and the 5-73 medical platoon leader, 1st Lt. Braden Hestermann.

"These missions are important because it lets the people of Iraq know their Army does care about them and wants to help them," Robinson said.

"I think a lot of the Iraqi

population knows the Coalition Forces are here to help, but many of them are weary about their own army," said Hestermann, a native of Omaha, Neb. "The more we can get the Iraqi Army out there in a positive light, the more confidence the Iraqi people will have in their forces."

As the Soldiers arrived in the designated village, the 5-73 Soldiers quickly began to provide security since they did not know how the village would react to their presence. Meanwhile, the Iraqi medical staff and 5-73 medical personnel began to set up for their evaluations.

The sheik in the village provided his house as a location for the medics to set up their table and begin screenings, Robinson said.

After setting up the table, medicine and vitamins were brought out and the evaluations began.

"We let the Iraqi doctor and his medics screen all the patients that came in," added Hestermann. "We helped out when they needed our help, but the goal was for them to lead the mission and be in charge."

The Iraqi doctor and his staff worked with the villagers while Robinson gave a helping hand when it was needed, looking at illnesses and injuries the medics needed a second opinion about.

The doctors and medics treated everyone who came in, from adults to children -- some villagers needing cold medi-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

While showing the Iraqi doctor his equipment, Capt. Larry Robinson, 5-73, prepares to give a medical examination to a young Iraqi child during the CME Nov. 8.

cine, others needing just vitamins to maintain their health.

"I love [these missions]," said Robinson. "This is why I got into medicine, to help people out."

"It's nice to get to help people who don't have many medical resources. These missions are right up my ally," he added.

"The best part of these missions is knowing you have made a tangible difference and its something you know is making a difference right now," added Hestermann.

"Every little bit helps," he continued. "Anything we can do to help build confidence in the eyes of the people towards their army will help this country."

After everyone had been treated, the units packed up and headed back to camp, knowing

they had made a difference in the lives of the villagers.

"Knowing that you went out on a mission and you made a difference today," said Hestermann, "that's what we all want to do and it feels great."

Both Robinson and Hestermann said one of the best parts of their missions is interacting with the children of the villages.

"Seeing those kids is great," Robinson said. "I hope we are winning their hearts and minds. This is where it counts - with the kids."

"But the best part is when you're going through a village in a convoy, kids come running up smiling, waving and giving us the thumbs up," Hestermann said. "These kids will remember our efforts and it will make a difference."

In Memory Of....

1SG Ricky McGinnis
Co. A, 6-9 ARS
3rd BCT, 1CD

SFC Schuyler Haynes
HHC, 1-12 CAB (Scout Plt)
3rd BCT, 1CD

CPT Rhett Schiller
Co. C, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 82nd Airborne

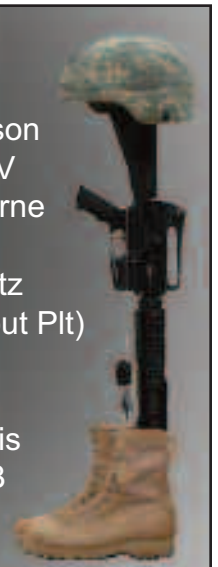
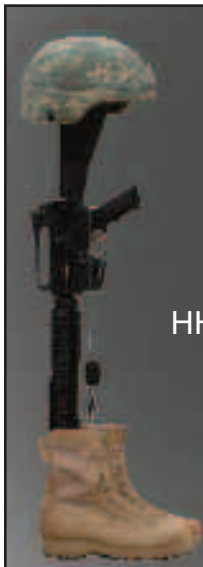
SPC Kenneth Haines
HHB, 2-82FA
3BCT, 1CD

PVT Troy Cooper
HHB, 2-82 FA
3BCT, 1CD

CPT John Dennison
Co. C, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 82nd Airborne

SGT Mitchell Mutz
HHC, 1-12 CAB (Scout Plt)
3rd BCT, 1CD

SSG Daniel Morris
Co. A, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD



"You've Got Mail..."

Mail Gives Soldiers a 'Piece of Home'

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — "There is nothing in the world that is better than receiving mail," said Sgt. Agustin Sanchez — and he would know.

As the certified mail clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, it is his mission to make sure all the Soldiers from the "Grey Wolf" brigade get the mail they look forward to receiving.

Sanchez, who waits until after lunch to pick up mail from the post office, returns to his office and begins the sorting process. Sanchez said he knows he has to work quickly to meet the needs of those around him.

"Most Soldiers don't get their mail until after they get back from work," said the El Paso, Texas native. "When you come home from a long day of working hard or being on a patrol, nothing beats coming back and hearing, 'Hey, you've got mail!'"

"When I get mail it's like Christmas every month because I don't get many packages back home," said Spc. Eddie Quintero, HHC, 3BCT, and a native of San Diego, Calif. "It's like a piece of home in a box."

With the internet being provided at the bases Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility, many Soldiers can go there to receive e-mails or pictures from a loved one. While e-mail is nice because of its timely delivery, Sanchez said he would rather have a hand written letter.

"Receiving a letter beats getting an e-mail any day," Sanchez said.

"There is no better way to say 'I love you' to a Soldier overseas than sending a hand-written letter," added Sanchez. "To take the time to sit down with a pen and paper, it just makes Soldiers feel loved. It reminds them of home."

"Mail is love in an envelope," said Pfc. Freddie Scott Jr., HHC, 3BCT, and a native of Tallahassee, Fl. "Mail is like fuel that motivates me, and it lets me know people care about me and appreciate what I am doing for my country."

Feeling loved is something Sanchez said all Soldiers need, adding the letters he hands out lift the Soldiers' spirits.

"It is the biggest morale booster in the world," he said. "Any Soldier will tell you that."

"Sometimes that's all you need — to know someone appreciates what you are doing," added Scott.

"I remember my last deployment to Iraq," said Sanchez, remembering the letters and drawings he used to get from children in the states.

"It just makes you smile and it does raise your morale way up," he said. "I kept those drawings with me — they meant a lot."

People taking time out of their busy day to remember the Soldiers who are fighting hard for them overseas are what make the Soldiers keep going everyday, said Sanchez.

"From a colonel all the way down to a private, nothing is better than receiving a hand-written letter, pictures or a care package from a loved one," Sanchez said. "It reminds you that there is someone out there who cares about what you are doing and appreciates it. They appreciate your efforts."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Pvt. Rokeisha Washington, a native of San Antonio, Texas, helps Staff Sgt. Michael Addesso, a native of Fayetteville, N.C.; both of HHC, 3BCT; sort through mail to be delivered to Soldiers of the "Grey Wolf" Brigade.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

While sorting through the brigade's mail, Staff Sgt. Michael Addesso, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., hands Sgt. Agustin Sanchez, a native of El Paso, Texas; both of HHC, 3BCT a package to be stored inside the mail room.

MNC-I CSM Visits Troops In Diyala

By Sgt. Serena Hayden
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq – The Multi-National Corps-Iraq command sergeant major visited the Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Nov. 6.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam, together with the brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Felt, traveled from Forward Operating Base Warhorse to meet the Soldiers on the Police Transition Team, the Military Transition Team and a sniper platoon providing security for the Independence Radio and Television station.

Beam, who has been deployed for the past ten months, said there are several reasons he feels it's important to meet the troops serving our country.

"I do it because I'm a sergeant, just a senior sergeant, and that's where sergeants should be

– where Soldiers are at," Beam said.

Also, Beam said he interacts with Soldiers to ensure they understand the policies published by Corps, to gather information to help create future policies and to gather feedback on how the policies affect the troops at ground level.

"A policy that can't be enforced by a sergeant is not a policy," he added. "I want to make sure the advice I give is advice a sergeant would give."

Finally, Beam said he circulates operational areas to recognize excellence.

"There are a lot of Soldiers that are out there alone and unafraid," Beam said, adding he tries to meet as many of the troops as he can.

This particular visit provided several opportunities for Beam.

As he traveled throughout the brigade's area of operations, he was able to assess the area, meet the leaders and Soldiers of the "Grey Wolf" brigade and see the

progress the previous unit made.

From the tactical operation center to the guard tower and the dining facility to the sleeping quarters, Beam visited with a variety of troops during each stop.

"As a senior sergeant ... I think 80 percent of your job is to visit Soldiers, be with Soldiers, do what Soldiers do," he said. "And while you're there, talk to them about what's going on, what they're doing, what's important to them."

While talking to Soldiers, Beam said two of his main focuses are standards, and tactics, techniques and procedures.

"I learn from them as well as they learn from me," he said, adding he believes Soldiers are vital to winning this war.

"I sort of think the key to winning this thing is sitting right in this room, sitting in the guard towers, sitting in the dining facilities and sitting in the Humvees – they're called Soldiers and they're called sergeants, they're called lieutenants and they're called

commanders," he said. "That's what's going to win this thing for us."

From the Soldiers' perspective, Beam's visit, as well as visits from other key leaders, is important, too.

Cpl. Joseph Sayre, a member of the sniper platoon, Company E, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, and a native of Erie, Pa., was on a guard shift during Beam's visit, said the command sergeant major asked about his range card and when he last cleaned his weapon and wiped down his ammunition.

"It builds motivation and shows that somebody cares about us, and wants to see how we're doing," said Sayre.

"It shows that the leadership is willing get out there," said Sgt. David Kukla, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-12 CAB. "It shows good, strong leadership up top."

After returning to FOB Warhorse, Beam had dinner with approximately 30 Soldiers and conducted an NCO professional development class with the senior NCOs of the brigade.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Pvt. Angel Aguirre, a driver for the Military Transition Team from Company A, 2-82 Field Artillery, admires the coin of excellence presented to him by Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam, Nov. 6.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq command sergeant major, talks with Spc. Eric Parsons and Sgt. David Kukla, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, during their guard shift at the Diyala Government Center, Nov. 6.

'Grey Wolf' Spouses Re-up Together

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — Standing side-by-side during a ceremony, a husband and wife from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, raised their right hands and re-enlisted at Forward Operating Base Warhorse Nov. 6.

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Rivera, Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and Staff Sgt. Leticia Rivera, Distribution Company A, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, re-enlisted together as a sign of support for each other.

"This means she will be there for me and I will be there for her," said Rodney, a native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. "So few people get to do that — re-enlist with your wife in a combat zone," he added.

Without her husband's support, Leticia, a native of Indio, Calif., said she would have not have re-enlisted.

He's actually supporting me doing the job I do. If he wouldn't have been here with me, I would have gotten out," she said.

The couple, who met in Iraq during their last deployment, were married in March, said Rodney.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Raising their right hands, Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Rivera (middle), and Staff Sgt. Leticia Rivera (right), re-enlist together during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warhorse Nov. 6.

Rodney said he didn't re-enlist for money, but to support his wife. She said she did it to support him as well.



'Grey Wolf' Retention Team

3 BCT Senior Counselor
3rd BSTB
1st-12th CAV

215th BSB

3rd-8th CAV
6th-9th CAV

2nd-82nd FA

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Helmes
Staff Sgt. Luis Carter
Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar
Staff Sgt. Alegray Hamer
Staff Sgt. Annamarie Conklin
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran

Photos From the FOB...



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT PAO NCOIC

The sun sets on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Nov. 4.

Got Photos?

If you'd like to see your photo in *The Grey Wolf Howl*, e-mail Sgt. Serena Hayden at serena.hayden@us.army.mil.